some portion is still single lane; if so, whether Government have any plan to make it double lane; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when it would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Ahmedabad-Delhi MG line has already been converted into the broad gauge.

(b) The 8th Five Year Plan was over on 31.3.1997. The funds allocated for this work during the 8th Five Year Plan was Rs. 584.48 crs.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) A survery for doubling of this line has been taken up and is expected to be completed by December, 1999. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

New Railway Zonal Headquarters at Bilaspur

1536. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have, of late, decided to set up a new Railway Zonal headquarter at Bilaspur, in compliance with the pressing demand of the people of Chattisgarh region;

(b) if so, the details of the infrastructure to be created for the purpose and the cost thereof; and

(c) the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details and cost of the infrastructure have not been worked out so far.

(c) Government have decided to set up a new Railway Zone with headquarters at Bilaspur. Its inaugural function has been held on 20.9.1989. An Officer-on-Special Duty has been posted at Bilaspur. Sanction has also been accorded to the creation of 41 workcharged posts for different departments.

Railway line from Delhi to Tashkent

1537. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for a rail line from Delhi to Tashkent is pending in the Ministry;

(b) if not, whether the Ministry purpose to consider such proposed in future;

(c) to what extent such a rail line would help trade with Central Asian and other countries; and

(d) the impendiments blocking such a proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION. (SHRI RAM NAIK): (A) No Sir.

(b) The Ministry is not empowered to consider such a project as it has international involvements.

(c) and (d) Details regarding benefits and impediments will be available only after a detailed study.

Conversion of Rajkot-Junagarh-Veraval and Gandhidham-Bhuj rail lines

1538. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in the conversion of Rajkot-Junagarh-Veraval and Gandhidham-Bhuj rail lines into broad gauge;

(b) the earlier target of completion of the said gauge conversion;

(c) whether the said works have been included in the priority list of Railway Network Plan; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION. (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Constraint of resources.

(b) 31.12.1999.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Posts

1539. SHRI K.M. KHAN: will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Group-B Gazetted posts in the Ministry have been upgraded as Group-A Gazetted posts in recent past;

(b) whether incumbents of such upgraded posts would continue to shoulder the same responsibilities which they were handling in Group-B posts;

(c) whether such situation is a humiliation to Group-B Gazetted officials when the incumbents of upgraded posts would continue to work in one room, doing the work of Group-B Gazetted;

(d) whether Government propose to transfer the incumbents of upgraded posts to some other directorates, in view of posts (b) and (c); and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (e) In order to remove the acute stagnation, to some extent in Central Secretariat Service, Department of Personnel & Training as per their Office Memorandum No. 21/48/97-CS.I dated 28.09.98, upgraded 225 posts of Desk Officers/Section Officers of Central Secretariat Service to the grade of Under Secretaries and 72 posts of Under Secretaries to the grade of Deputy Secretaries on personal basis, with, inter-alia the following conditions:—

(i) The appointments against the upgraded posts will not entitle the officers to any claim for regular appointment as Under Secretary/ Deputy Secretary or seniority in the grade.

(ii) The upgraded posts will automatically revert to their original level as and when the incumbents of such posts vacate them on their promotion against actual vacancies in the higher grade or on their retirement, resignation etc.

(iii) The officers adjusted against the upgraded posts will be given the designation and scale of pay of the posts but will continue to perform the same duties/functions as they are doing at present, till they get adjusted against regular vacancies in the higher grade. Some internal arrangement in regard to the level/system of submission of papers by the incumbents of the upgraded posts may be necessary, which may be made by the concerned Ministries/Departments internally.

(iv) The special pay to which the Desk officers are entitled will not be admissible on their upgradation